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Central Intelligence Agency

OLL RECORD
CAD



Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 85-2618/2

22 OCT 1985

Mr. William J. Cornelius
Acting Director
Office of Security and Safety
United States General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Cornelius:

This is in response to your letter of 3 September 1985 addressed to Mr. William J Casey, Director of Central Intelligence, regarding a listing of classified General Accounting Office (GAO) reports. Our classification review office has examined the issues you raised.

We believe the listing could be of considerable value to someone gathering intelligence on the United States. It pinpoints documents that most likely would be useful to an opponent. In a number of cases, the titles cast doubt on specific weapon systems or projects and, by the process of elimination, identify certain weapons as effective and others as much less so.

We agree with your assessment that, at a minimum, this listing should be classified at the CONFIDENTIAL level. However, an overwhelming majority of these reports belong to the Department of Defense (DoD). Therefore, we believe DoD should have the final word about the classification level of the listing. STAT

Should you wish to meet to discuss our views on classification further, please contact [redacted] of my office on [redacted]

We are affording this package special handling in light of our findings. Please treat this as classified information even though technically neither you nor ourselves can classify the listing.

STAT

Sincerely,

~~CHARLES A. BRIGGS~~

Charles A. Briggs
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

DOWNGRADE TO UNCLASSIFIED
WHEN ENCLOSURE IS REMOVED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
85-2618

GENERAL SERVICES
AND CONTROLLER

SEP 3 1985

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Attn: Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

Dear Mr. Casey:

We recently received a request for a listing of all classified GAO reports. This listing has been considered an internal GAO working document which GAO evaluators use as a research tool. This automated listing is relatively new and this is the first request external to GAO that we have had for its release.

The security specialists of this office feel that the release of this list would be of some intelligence value to hostile intelligence operatives as the document lists over 700 classified GAO reports issued between 1952 and 1984. This document clearly depicts trends and illustrates classified issues that have been of interest to Congress and the various administrations. We feel that while the individual titles are unclassified, the combined listing is sensitive and possibly should be classified.

We are enclosing a copy of this list and request it be reviewed to determine if it could be of some intelligence value to a hostile force and, if so, should it be classified? If this be the case, we request that your agency apply the appropriate classification markings as GAO has no classification authority.

We have advised the requestor that we are seeking this review from other federal agencies, therefore, an expeditious handling of this matter would be appreciated. If additional information is needed please contact either David Dittmeier, Manager, Information and Personnel Security Branch, or myself at 275-4700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William J. Cornelius", is written over the typed name.

William J. Cornelius
Acting Director
Office of Security and Safety

Enclosure